

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 10056 230903Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 OES-03 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AGR-05 HEW-02 NAS-01 NSF-01 /086 W

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R 230845Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1859

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ATTN: SCICOUNS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN TBIO JA

SUBJ: REGULATION OF GENETIC MANIPULATION RESEARCH

REF: PARIS 16493

1. JAPAN IS NOT FORMALLY AFFILIATED WITH EMBO, BUT JAPANESE SCIENTISTS PARTICIPATE IN SOME OF ITS ACTIVITIES BY INVITATION. ACCORDING TO DR. HIROTA OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GENETICS, JAPAN WAS TOLD BY EMBO OFFICIALS THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR JAPAN TO BECOME MEMBER OF EMBO. HIROTA BELIEVES JAPANESE PARTICIPATION WOULD BE DESIRABLE BECAUSE ORGANIZATION CONDUCTS USEFUL ACTIVITIES WHICH PROVIDE ASSOCIATIONS FOR TOP-LEVEL SCIENTISTS. EMBASSY WAS INFORMED THAT ISRAEL IS ONLY NON-EUROPEAN NATION NOW MEMBER OF EMBO.

2. FYI: THOROUGH BUT INFORMAL CHECK OF PERTINENT GOJ AGENCIES HAS FAILED TO REVEAL ANY EFFORT TO REGULATE RESEARCH ON GENETIC MANIPULATION. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, WHICH SUPPORTS UNIVERSITY RESEARCH, REGULATION OF SUCH RESEARCH MAY BECOME NECESSARY SEVERAL YEARS FROM NOW AS GENETIC RESEARCH, NOW LARGELY CONFINED TO BASIC ASPECTS, BEGINS

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 10056 230903Z

TO INVOLVE MANIPULATION OF GENETIC MATERIAL. END FYI.

HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, GENETICS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO10056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750254-0002
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750727/aaaaayuo.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PARIS 16493
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REGULATION OF GENETIC MANIPULATION RESEARCH
TAGS: TGEN, TBIO, JA
To: PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006